BRIDGER NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL
AERIAL SURVEY
September 1955

By

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Entomologist

An aerial survey to detect forest insect damage and activity on the Bridger National Forest was conducted during the first week of September 1955. All areas observed that contained evidence that might indicate insect activity were located on the attached flight maps and are described below.

Wyoming Division

Area A.
Area A is located in Fontenelle Basin and apparently just east of the Forest Service boundary. At first the area seemed to contain many bark beetle "red tops"; actually, however, closer examination revealed that the "red tops" were groups of trees "top killed" by the feeding of porcupines.

Area B.
Just west of Bald Knoll between Booth Creek and Big Fork, side drainages of La Barge Creek, is a center of "red tops" designated area B. Two or three small groups of red lodgepole pine occur around old sawdust and slab piles, that have been burned. These trees have probably been killed by Ips beetles. However, in addition there are approximately 400 trees that one would have to assume were killed by the mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus monticolae. These trees are scattered throughout about 1,000 acres of the lodgepole pine stand. This situation could develop into a serious problem. Therefore it would be desirable to remove the infested trees if possible. Loggers who are active a short distance down river from the infestation might be in a position to log the infested trees.

Area C.
Area C is situated at the junction of the Cottonwood Guard Station road and the main road. There appeared to be 50 faded lodgepole pine trees or so in two groups. These trees didn't have the appearance of "bug-killed" trees but are off color, faded, and should be examined from the ground. From the air it looked like the east side of the trees were more faded than the west. There was no evidence of fire but strong evidence of cattle having rubbed against the trees. It may be injury from the cattle rubbing, but it would be well for the forest people to check the trees sometime when they happen to be at the Cottonwood Guard Station. If the examination indicates a possible insect problem the Division of Forest Insect Research should be informed so that an entomologist could examine and appraise the problem.

Bridger Division

Area D.
Area D is located at the northwest end of Fremont Lake. There are approximately 100 lodgepole pine trees killed in 1955 scattered throughout an area of about 800 acres. The faded trees occur as singles and rarely in groups of 2 or 3 trees. Actually this area appeared to contain only a slightly heavier concentration of beetle-killed trees than occurs normally in other lodgepole pine stands in the region.

Area E.
Area E represents two areas around Willow Lake and Willow Creek that contain a scattered bark beetle infestation over a rather large area in the true fir stands. The bark beetle is probably Scolytus ventralis. Bark beetles are killing true fir throughout the region. Only the infestations causing extensive damage in stands that are readily accessible were marked on the flight maps.

Area F.
Area F is located on the slopes of Jim Creek. There are a few small groups (2 or 3 trees) scattered throughout the area. Probably slightly less than 50 lodgepole pine trees were killed in 1955.

Area G.
The Engelmann spruce stand on the east and south sides of Gypsum Creek has been designated as area G. It was apparent from the air that a very serious outbreak was in progress in this area. An estimated 5,000 yellow (last year's) trees were seen from the air. On the 22nd of September Paul Grossenbach of Timber Management, Regional Office, and Dick Washburn ground-checked the area. This examination confirmed the seriousness of the outbreak. We guessed that the area located from the air contained approximately 15,000 infested trees. It was evident that a thorough timber cruise and

insect damage survey would be necessary in order to be able to fully evaluate the problem. On the 26th of September a survey crew moved into the area. Mr. Les Moncrief of Timber Management, Regional Office, Mr. Don R. Parker of Forest Insect Research Division, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, and Supervisor Jay Sevy of the Bridger National Forest accompanied Dick Washburn on an orientation familiarization flight over the area on September 26. Tuesday and Wednesday, September 27-28, Dick Washburn revisited the area to determine if the infestation extended beyond the areas noted from the air. The ground examination revealed that in addition to the area located from the air the spruce timber in the heads of Gypsum Creek was heavily infested. A heavy concentration of infestation was also located on the north facing slope of little Sheep Mountain.

The addition of these areas increased the estimated number of infested trees to 30,000. The infested area was enlarged to approximately 9,000 acres. These estimates are of course preliminary and must be considered only as best guesses. The ground survey will produce a more reliable estimate that can be used for planning and organizational purposes.

Area H.
The lodgepole pine timber on the east-facing slope at the base of the Green River Lakes contains scattered single mountain pine beetle-killed trees. Since this is a heavily used recreational area it would be unfortunate if a large bark beetle population would be allowed to develop. At present no action would seem warranted but the bark beetle situation in this area should be watched closely.

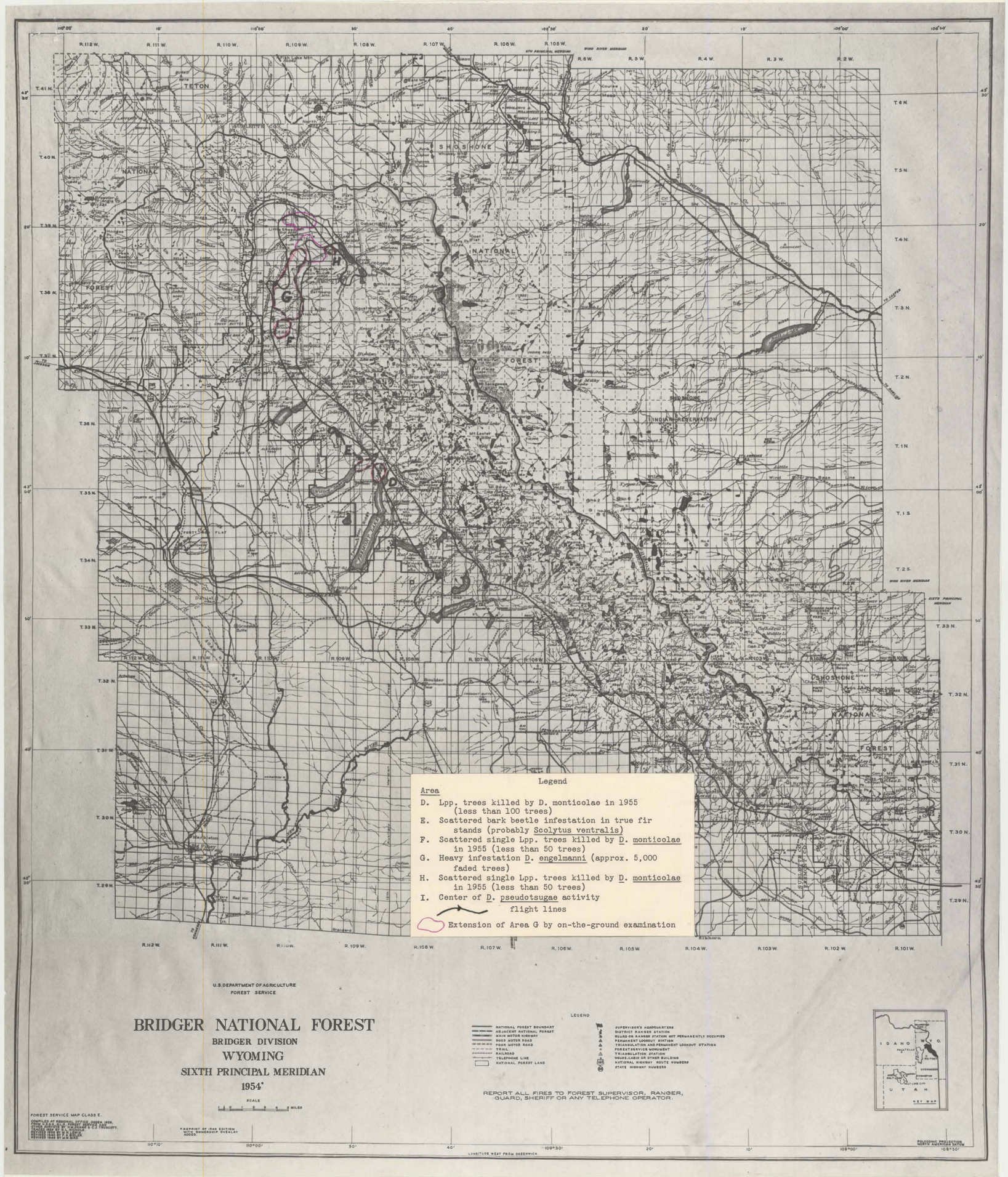
Area I.
There is a concentration of Douglas-fir beetle activity on the south side of Half Moon Lake.

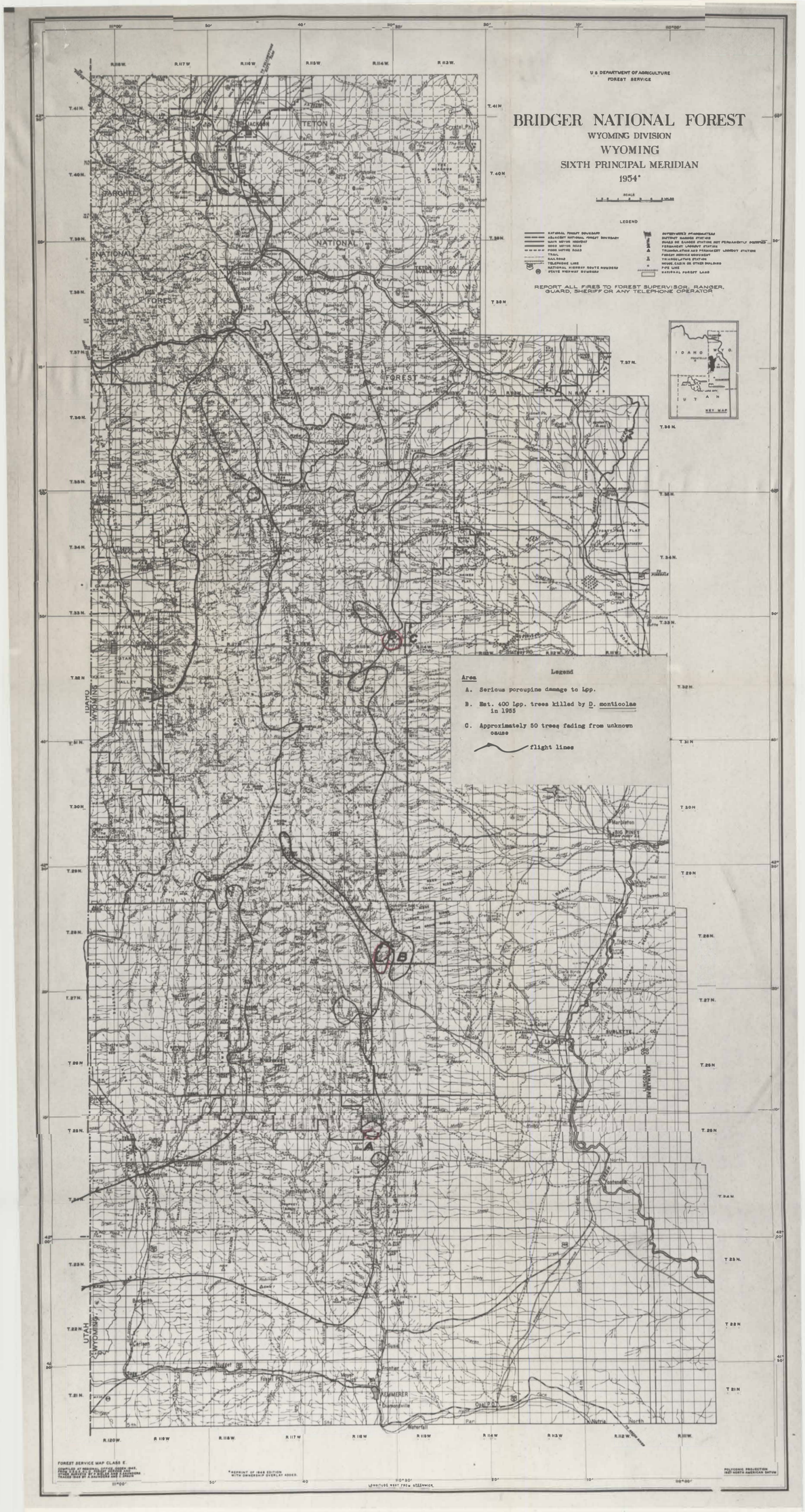
General

The average elevation of the wilderness area is in excess of 10,000 feet and dotted with many peaks ranging from 11,000 feet to 13,785 feet in elevation. Therefore it was decided that the value of the survey in this rugged sparsely timbered area would not be worth the risk involved. Forest personnel traveling in the wilderness area should report any concentrations of insect activity detected to the Division of Forest Insect Research, Intermountain Forest & Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah.

It should be understood that aerial surveys are not aimed at replacing but rather to supplement the on-the-ground detection that is the responsibility of all Forest Service personnel.

cc: Bridger N.F.
T.M. — —
W.O. (2)
Boise R.C.
R.I.W.


Legend
Area
D. Lpp. trees killed by D. monticolae in 1955 (less than 100 trees)
E. Scattered bark beetle infestation in true fir stands (probably Scolytus ventralis)
F. Scattered single Lpp. trees killed by D. monticolae in 1955 (less than 50 trees)
G. Heavy infestation D. engelmanni (approx. 5,000 faded trees)
H. Scattered single Lpp. trees killed by D. monticolae in 1955 (less than 50 trees)
I. Center of D. pseudotsugae activity
flight lines
Extension of Area G by on-the-ground examination
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
BRIDGER NATIONAL FOREST
BRIDGER DIVISION
WYOMING
SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
1954*
SCALE
LEGEND
REPORT ALL FIRES TO FOREST SUPERVISOR, RANGER, GUARD, SHERIFF OR ANY TELEPHONE OPERATOR.
FOREST SERVICE MAP CLASS E.
COMPILED AT REGIONAL OFFICE, OGDEN, 1939.
FIELD SURVEYS BY H.M.DRAKE & C.S.PRESCOTT.
DRAWN BY H.M.DRAKE & C.S.PRESCOTT.
REVISED 1946 BY E.E.SELLE.
REVISED 1948 BY M.M.BIRD.
* REPRINT OF 1946 EDITION WITH OWNERSHIP OVERLAY ADDED.
KEY MAP
POLYCONIC PROJECTION
NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
LONGITUDE WEST FROM GREENWICH


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
BRIDGER NATIONAL FOREST
WYOMING DIVISION
WYOMING
SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
1954*
SCALE
LEGEND
REPORT ALL FIRES TO FOREST SUPERVISOR, RANGER, GUARD, SHERIFF OR ANY TELEPHONE OPERATOR
KEY MAP
IDAHO
UTAH
WYOMING
Legend
Area
A. Serious porcupine damage to Lpp.
B. Est. 400 Lpp. trees killed by D. monticolae in 1955
C. Approximately 50 trees fading from unknown cause
flight lines
JACKSON
TETON
PARCHEE
NATIONAL
FOREST
KEMMERER
Diamondville
Opal
Fossil
Frontier
Hilliard
Mountain View
Evanston
Lyman
Bridger Pk.
Fossil Pk.
Commissary Ridge
Oyster Ridge
Table Rock
Church Butte
Granger
Carter
Ryckman Creek
Cumberland Gap
Hams Fork
Blacks Fork
Muddy Creek
Smiths Fork
Twin Creek
Thomas Fork
Big Piney
Marbleton
Burnt Fork
Sublette
Kemmerer
Diamondville
Opal
Cokeville
Montpelier
Paris
Bear Lake
Geneva
Soda Springs
Alpine
Star Valley
Afton
Freedom
Auburn
Etna
Smoot
Labarge
Kemmerer
Diamondville
Opal
Frontier
Fossil
Hilliard
Mountain View
Evanston
Lyman
Bridger Pk.
Fossil Pk.
Commissary Ridge
Oyster Ridge
Table Rock
Church Butte
Granger
Carter
Ryckman Creek
Cumberland Gap
Hams Fork
Blacks Fork
Muddy Creek
Smiths Fork
Twin Creek
Thomas Fork
Big Piney
Marbleton
Burnt Fork
Sublette
Kemmerer
Diamondville
Opal
Cokeville
Montpelier
Paris
Bear Lake
Geneva
Soda Springs
Alpine
Star Valley
Afton
Freedom
Auburn
Etna
Smoot
Labarge
FOREST SERVICE MAP CLASS E
*REPRINT OF 1948 EDITION WITH GRIDBLOCK DATA, AT ADDED.
POLYCONIC PROJECTION
1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM